

Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee (RB-NAC)

February 15, 2012 6:30pm-8:30pm

Southeast Seattle Senior Center

4655 South Holly Street, 98118 (Phone: 206-722-0317)

Attendees

NAC Members:

Cheryl dos Remedios, David Sauvion, Gregory Davis, Guyanthony Parramore, Harry Hoffman, Margaret Yellowwolf, Mohamed Sheikh Hassan, Peter Masundire, Robert West "Trey"

Public Members:

City Staff: Nora Liu (DPD), Sebhat Tenna (DON), David Goldberg (DPD)

NAC Initiatives

- Group has been working on draft initiatives via e-mail:
 - Gregory added some items to the 'beautiful/safe place' section.
 - Action 2 relates to bringing public safety advocates together to form an alliance to address issues.
 - Action 3 and 4 relate to light rail and connections and Youth Transit work and potential pilot project.
 - Sebhat will be working on getting a lighter version of the initiatives translated.
 - Nora will send information on the multi-cultural center. NAC members discussed the appropriate placement of this item.
- NAC member questioned the lack of reference to diversity in the area in the Initiatives publication.
 - NAC member requested he send his suggestions via e-mail for inclusion in the document. Nora stated she would assist with this piece.
- NAC member stated the word "initiative" might sound too technical and turn people off.
 - NAC member stated need to emphasize that community involvement is key in getting the work done on the initiatives. Listing partners gives the impression that organizations are already undertaking the work.
 - NAC member stated there is a diverse audience that this publication is targeted at, both the public and potential funders.
 - David suggested the simplified version might also be produced for English readers.
 - NAC member asked for information on any funders not listed so she could include them.

- NAC member stated need to be cautious with public safety in general, as some want to turn Rainier Beach into Laurelhurst. Should call out what can be addressed with early education, etc. Not set up unrealistic expectations.
 - Nora suggested that other aspects of a healthy community are necessary in addition to the traditional crime prevention suggestions.
 - David stated that it doesn't matter if the document is perfect or covers everything, its purpose should be to inspire the community and light sparks.
 - NAC member stated maybe calling it a "work in progress" rather than a living document.
 - Nora suggested moving the "Rainier Beach: A Place for Everyone" the lead item.

Update on Trang Tu Consulting Work

- Work is to create a structure or entity to help implement the plan update. Goal would be to have a diverse group. Also working with major foundations around funding.
- All of the documents related to this work will be available online and will be an appendix to the plan update.

Station Area Zoning Discussion

- David went through the comments that were made at the fall community meeting around the station area. Various areas were identified as possible sites for housing, business, live/work spaces and possibly a college/food processing area.
 - Any zoning changes will go through an analysis, but plan recommendations allow this conversation to begin.
- NAC member asked how these changes would affect low-income people living in the area.
 - David stated that currently there is not too much residential development in this area.
- NAC member questioned whether it would allow residents to live and invest or would it bring in people from Bellevue.
 - David stated this is the fundamental question and what the plan will try to address. Goal is to allow for small business investment and not increase taxes to where businesses/organizations are driven out.
 - Nora stated the intent is to provide affordable housing and provide jobs in this area and allow local residents the ability to start up small businesses. It would not be possible to state that 100% of housing must be affordable. Need to look at this as both/and. Also need to have market rate housing and bring money into the community to support small businesses.
 - NAC member stated competition between high-income and low-income businesses could drive smaller business out of business.
- David went through the zoning areas and recommendations in detail.

- NAC members discussed various possible uses and what might pencil out including affordable housing, retail, live/work spaces, community college use, office space, performing arts space.
 - David stated that developers generally want 85 ft. for development.
 - NAC member stated that at this height commercial wages would come into play and increase costs, making affordability difficult.
 - David stated the “Seattle Mixed” zoning designation would allow for a variety of uses. Big box type stores were excluded in the station area overlay area.
 - NAC members stated they were opposed to big box developments and did not want multi-national franchises. Another NAC member stated these types of establishment provided employment for youth, however.
- NAC member also stated they would like design review and sustainable buildings discussed.
 - David stated design review is mentioned in the plan and he could add language about sustainability.

Phase 4 Meeting

- Scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 6:30 to 8:30 PM @South Shore K-8
- Will provide an opportunity for the community to come together and decide what they would like to work on.
- Goal is to come out of meeting with list of names and contact information of people wanting to work on individual tasks right away.
 - Tables around initiatives
 - Projects broken down into doable tasks
- NAC members tasked with contacting people to attend the meeting
- POLs will make connections with their communities
- Nora stated that City staff could help staff tables, but community will be taking lead after this point
 - NAC member stated concern over community’s ability to take on this role at this point
 - NAC members have the most knowledge about the plan update and can continue to meet after the formal process concludes if they wish
 - NAC members stated they want to stay involved with the plan, in partnership with the city and community
 - Nora stated the group can still access Trang’s assistance and should begin looking for funding to do this

Wrap-up: Questions, Announcements & Next Steps

- RB Community Center Request for Interest (RFI) for partnership opportunity: open House on 3/6/12 @South Shore K-8 School (7:00 – 8:30 PM)
- Last NAC meeting is scheduled for March 21. It will be both a formal meeting and a celebration.